



HI-Q



VE3FW—LARC call sign honours the memory of the
Founding President P.J. "Pat" O'Shea

Volume 73

December 2007

Issue 10

RAC 2006 Radio Amateur of the Year

.....has local connection

On 16 October 2007, the RAC Board of Directors unanimously chose John Sluymer VE3EJ as the 2006 Radio Amateur of the Year.

John, who lives in Grassie ON, is Canada's best-known and most accomplished Amateur Radio sportsman. Over and above his regular globe-leading scores in conventional contests, in July 2006, John and team-mate Jim VE7ZO won the gold medal at the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) in Brazil, against 50 other teams of Amateurs from around the world.

Sent by the RAC Bulletins

I worked with John several time over the years as he is the saftey officer at LebLanc and Royal Tower Company. But his side kick Jim, VE7ZO is Jim Roberts who lived in Th Bay for along time and his dad was Bill, VE3ARN who was a long time senator in the LARC.
73 Bill VE3XT

Local Nets

LARC 2 meter ARES NET held every Tues. evening at 1900 on YQT 147.060 mhz (-)

ONTARIO ARES IRLP NET held every Sun. & Wed. evenings 2000 (local) on reflector # 9005 on 145.450 mhz (-) PL 123.0

73

Brad VE3MXJ

Any questions ?

e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

home: 767-0628

cell: 474-6246

...and of course don't forget the ARES net on 3.750 Mhz daily at 2015

Russian Woodpecker ... John Kaleta VE3EMI

Veterans of the HF bands will remember the sound of the Russian Woodpecker or Over the Horizon Radar. Here is a photo of the offending antenna.



And here are some more "woodpecker" links from John

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Woodpecker

http://pripyat.com/ru/internet_photo/chernobyl_2/

<http://pix.fine.kiev.ua/egor/gallery/0000b02w>

<http://www.socaltvradio.com/intercept/othb.htm>

.....many thanks John

ANNUAL DINNER FEBRUARY 16TH, 2008

The annual dinner meeting will be held on February 16, 2008 in the Sunroom at the Slovak Legion.

Tickets are \$25.00 per person. They will be available at the December meeting or from the executive.

Hope to see you at this event.

Bob VE3RVA

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske VE3JQ
Pat Doherty VE3PD
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

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VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

Public Service Events

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Amateur Radio

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Lakehead Amateur Radio Club - Treasurers Report

Opening Balance - Nov. 3th. 2007 \$ 5,780.63

Income

| | | |
|-------------|----|--------|
| Interest | \$ | 0.04 |
| 50/50 Draw | \$ | 6.00 |
| Memberships | \$ | 160.00 |
| Radios | \$ | 100.00 |

Total Income \$ 266.04

Expenses

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|--------|
| Thunder Bay Telephone | \$ | 48.03 |
| Bank Service Fee | \$ | 1.50 |
| Slovak Legion - Deposit | \$ | 50.00 |
| Hi-Q & Web page | \$ | 100.82 |

Total Expenses \$ 200.35

Closing Balance - Dec. 8th, 2007 \$ 5,846.32

Joe Coghlan - VE3TBX

Treasurer

Online Learning

Basic Amateur Radio Course
(updated November 28 2007)

The following series of Power Point Presentations (8 modules, 386 slides) has been prepared by the Emergency Management Ontario Amateur Radio Emergency Service Group (EMO ARES) as an aide to train interested volunteers in becoming Amateur Radio Operators. This course is offered free of charge to all Radio Clubs, ARES Groups, and individuals in the interest of public safety and community service.

available at www.emoares.org/course/

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 145.490 (-600) (100.0 Hz)

442.075 (+5 MHz)

144.390 APRS

VE3BGA (Hillcrest H.S.) 145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)

442.825 (+5 MHz) (100.0 Hz)

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

Introduction to Radiosport

by Tom Haavisto VE3CX

After writing last month's column...I realized I did not know much about contesting so I asked Tom for a few words of wisdom. If you are serious about contesting I suggest buying Tom a coffee (or something stronger) and get some great tips on getting started. If there are any other testers out there I would be glad to hear from you too....ed

One of the fascinating aspects of ham radio is that there are many aspects to the hobby. Get bored with one thing, and there is always something new you can try. Humans are competitive by their very nature. If this were not so, then there would be no sporting events... With that, I would like to introduce you to my favorite part of the hobby – Radiosport, or “Contesting”.

On any given weekend, there are a variety of contests. The best way to get started is to go to www.contesting.com. There are a variety of articles that explain what contesting is (a chance to meet new friends, and have FUN). From there, you can check out what is lined up – scroll down to WA7BNM Contest Calendar – he lists the next weeks schedule, as well as having a complete listing for the year.

So – what do you need to get started? A rig, an antenna, and the desire to have some fun. Sounds like you already have the basics covered already! Different contests have different rules and objectives. Some are local in nature, and others are national or even international in their focus. You do not need to submit a log in order to join in on the fun – just get on and make some contacts. You might be surprised how addictive it can be.

Remember – Contesting is a contact sport!

Some personal notes from Tom

We are now into the "contest season" as it were - lots of contests happen during the winter months, and they generate lots of activity on the bands. The Sweepstakes (SSB) run this weekend, and then comes the CQ World Wide (CW) on the last weekend of November - will be LOTS of activity on the bands :-). During the CQWW (SSB) on the last weekend of October, there was even an opening on 10 meters on Saturday. On Sunday, the Europeans were saying "ten is wide open!" Nothing heard here. On a brighter note, I did manage to work KH6 (Hawaii) on 160, and a number of stations on all six bands.

Of particular interest is the RAC Winter Contest - runs on the last weekend of the year, and runs on all bands. Lots of folks on the bands looking for Canadians.

During the Ontario QSO Party this year (runs in April), Bill - XT took second place for Thunder Bay, and I managed to set a new record for Thunder Bay - third place overall.

The Ontario QSO Party is now sponsored by the Contest Club Ontario (<http://cco.ve3xd.com>), and we are hoping to get more activity going here in the northwestern part of the province. Do you know how to contact any of the clubs here in NWO to get the word out? I mentioned it to John - OTI in Dryden, and it looks like the Dryden club has a web site. I will start working on them in the new year. However, I am still looking to try and get some more activity - especially from Kenora/Fort Frances, but no idea how to get a hold of anyone there. East of here (Geraldton, Terrace Bay, etc.) activity would also be great. Lots of folks looking for Ontario stations during this contest, so the more activity we can generate, the better!

We are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, and MAY be starting to head out the other side - too soon to tell just yet. Been some daytime openings on 15, and 20 is the money band during the day. 20 closes up at night, but the low bands from here are just AMAZING! Lots of DX on 40, 80 and 160 at night, and I managed to work RA4LW (European Russia) on 160 a couple of nights ago.

I moved out to Kam last year, and the station here is now QRV on all bands - 160 through 10 meters. It is a bit a trek - takes about half an hour to get here, but on the plus side, it is QUIET on HF. At the old place, I had S9+10 noise all the time on 80 meters. Last winter, once there was snow on the ground and the QRN settled down, the noise on 80 was down to S1. Even managed to work a couple of JA's on 80 phone last winter. Needless to say, this was simply not possible from the old place.

I am using fairly simple antennas for the low bands, but I am looking for some Radio Shack TV tower sections, if you know of anyone willing to part with same. I am looking for 200 feet worth for next summer - I am planning on building an 80 meter directional antenna called a 4-square. Consists of four phased verticals, and gives about 5 db gain, switchable in four directions. Based on on-air comments, and from what I have seen and heard, it is pretty impressive! I have some property cleared for the antenna - just need some tower sections to make it come to life.

Lots of used gear available - you really need to get back on HF to take advantage of these great conditions! Used gear, antennas and even towers are relatively cheap these days :-)

Getting Started

Bob and Joe are now well on their way. Bob is chatting with his new friends with his new mobile and Joe has joined a contest club. Sally, on the other hand, has been licenced for awhile but only active on VHF. She now wants to try out HF. The array of available HF rigs is astounding these days. Although I have a personal bias towards Icom gear, I have been favourably impressed by the offering from Yaesu. I'm sure that Kenwood, Alinco, TenTec and all the others are no slouches either. This is another situation where shack visits will be a good idea. Browsing the net and magazines and checking specs is one thing but being able to lay your hands on a transceiver and actually listen to it and twirl the knobs is in an entirely different realm. I think my best advice is to plan on spending more than you think you ought to. Those little extras that the extra couple of hundred bucks are going to buy are going to make using the radio more enjoyable. Also...slow down and mean and how they translate into the real world. these days and rich with features like digital those are...time for more research! Remember you are going to need. Unless the model of radio DC power supply that can supply the current need about twenty amps on transmit...but check feedline, usually coaxial cable like RG-8, from antenna is what will make or break your station. antenna can't be beat. However, if you are like the rest of us, there are some very good wire antennas that by almost anyone. I can't think of any reason to buy a wire favourites has been the bent vertical antenna, a 1/4 wave wire the vertical portion bent over and run across the backyard. Here are some web links to check out.



<http://www.alinco.com/>
<http://www.yaesu.com>
<http://www.elecrafter.com/>
<http://www.icomcanada.com/>
http://www.kenwoodusa.com/Communications/Amateur_Radio/
<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/index.php>
<http://www.tentec.com/>

Don't forget to save a few bucks for those "accessories" like an antenna tuner, computer control cables, fancy microphone, and speaker, and amplifiers.

I would like to let you know about a **new 75 meter ham fellowship net**. It is called the "Iron Range Net" and meets Saturdays at 1400 UTC on 3.913 MHz. The core group of check-ins have been from Minnesota's Iron Range and other check-ins have been from Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Michigan. Stations from anywhere are welcome.

Thanks

73 WA0WNV Ron

Hams To The Rescue In Northwest Flooding

from <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Hams-To-The-Rescue-In-Northwest-Flooding-89995>

The flooding in the Pacific Northwest has impacted T-Mobile customer support, severed communications lines, closed highways and overloaded area wireless networks. In the midst of communications chaos, ham radio operators are being praised as the heroes of the day by the Associated Press and area emergency officials:

A network of at least 60 volunteer amateur radio operators working along the coast and inland helped keep crucial systems such as 911 calls, American Red Cross and hospital

enjoy doing the research. Learn what the specs. Luckily, prices on HF rigs are very reasonable modes and DSP filtering. If you don't know what that the radio is just part of the whole system that you chose has one built in, you will need a 12 volt that the radio needs (100 watt radios generally the manual to make sure). You also need to run a your operating position to the antenna. The If you have the money, a tower, rotator and yagi "thrifty" or just broke can be built and erected antenna. One of my vertical with much of

services connected. They relayed information about patient care and relayed lists of supplies needed in areas cut off by water.

"One of the problems in this is always communication," says Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski after visiting impacted areas. "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us."

Did we mention that we've got a new ham operators forum?

thanks to Fred VE3FAL...ed

Contest Calendar

is available at

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

RAC Field Organization

Official Appointment Description
Emergency Coordinator

Emergency Co-ordinators are urgently required for the following areas. **Dryden Sioux Lookout Red Lake Fort Frances & Area, Greenstone.** If you can help please contact Fred Lesnick VE3FAL, ARES DEC - Amethyst area - 577-0789 - flesnick@tbaytel.net

The RAC Emergency Coordinator is a key team player in ARES on the local emergency scene. Working with the Section Emergency Coordinator, the DEC and Official Emergency Stations, the EC prepares for, and engages in management of communications needs in disaster s. EC duties include:

Promote and enhance the activities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for the benefit of the public as a voluntary, non- commercial communications service.

Manage and coordinate the training, organization and emergency participation of interested amateurs working in support of the communities, agencies or functions designated by the Section Emergency Coordinator /Section Manager.

Establish viable working relationships with federal, provincial, municipal government and private agencies in the ARES jurisdictional area which need the services of ARES in emergencies. Determine what agencies are active in your area, evaluate each of their needs, and which ones you are capable of meeting, and then prioritize these agencies and needs. Discuss your planning with your Section Emergency Coordinator and then with your counterparts in each of the agencies. Ensure they are all aware of your ARES group's capabilities, and perhaps more importantly, your limitations.

Develop detailed local operational plans with "served" agency officials in your jurisdiction that set forth precisely what each of your expectations are during a disaster operation.

Work jointly to establish protocols for mutual trust and respect.

All matter s involving recruitment and utilization of ARES volunteers are directed by you, in response to the needs assessed by the agency officials.

Technical issues involving message format, security of

message transmission, Disaster Welfare Inquiry policies, and others, should be reviewed and expounded upon in your detailed local operations plans.

Establish local communications networks run on a regular basis and periodically test those networks by conducting realistic drills.

Establish an emergency traffic plan, with Welfare traffic inclusive, utilizing the National Traffic System as one active component for traffic handling. Establish an operational liaison with local and section nets, particularly for handling Welfare traffic in an emergency situation.

In times of disaster, evaluate the communications needs of the jurisdiction and respond quickly to those needs. The EC will assume authority and responsibility for emergency response and performance by ARES personnel under his jurisdiction.

Work with other non- ARES amateur provider - groups to establish mutual respect and understanding, and a coordination mechanism for the good of the public and Amateur Radio. The goal is to foster an efficient and effective Amateur Radio response overall.

Work for growth in your ARES program, making it a stronger, more valuable resource and hence able to meet more of the agencies' local needs.

There are thousands of new peoples coming into the Amateur Radio Service that would make ideal additions to your ARES roster. A stronger ARES means a better ability to serve your communities in times of need and a greater sense of pride for Amateur Radio by both amateur s and the public.

Report regularly to the SEC, as required.

Your position description includes assisting your successor as much as possible to ensure a smooth transition in your position. This involves promptly updating and turning over the position records and supplies to your successor so that there is a little loss of continuity as possible. A business - like transition reflects well on your professionalism, responsibility and consideration as well as on RAC.

Recruitment of new hams and RAC member s is an integral part of the job of every appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a

new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

Requirement: The Emergency Coordinator is required to be a Full RAC member and hold an Amateur Operator's Certificate (or equivalent, as stipulated by the Radiocommunication Regulations) and should always operate radio equipment only within the limits and privileges of the certificate and qualification held.

Minutes of November 8 LARC Meeting

Called to order at 7:30 by VE3XT

This meeting started with a hand's on session of soldering using non leaded solder in the lab at the college.

The business meeting commenced with the padding of the treasurer's report by VE3KRH seconded by VE3AXL.

The secretary's report was not tabled.

The upcoming Christmas Parade has all radio slots filled thanks to VE3ZG and his team.

The ARES report was not filed as Randy VA3OG was at work paying off the mortgage.

Bob, VE3RVA spoke to the up coming Annual Dinner on February 15 at the Slovak. The cost will be \$25 per plate. The guest speakers will be local scientists/genealogists who put an identity to recently discovered remains of Canadian soldiers in France from the First World War, using DNA identifying at the Paleontology labs at Lakehead University.

Under old business there was some discussion of the revival of the Thunder Bay award, this idea will be worked on. Phil, VE3AXL commented on the local members who have not updated their ARES data with Randy, VA3OG and we should support Randy by updating our personal data. Next meeting we hope to have a special ARES presentation on ARES preparedness.

VE3XT commented on the issue of the Norman family asking for a ruling on the status of the litigation pending with RAC vis a vis the severance package.

The meeting was closed at 2037 followed by the 50/50 draw won by VE3RVA, congratulations Bob.

The Prez Sez December 2007

I am especially excited about our meeting on December 13 in Room 191 at the McIntyre building. Randy, VA3OJ will be giving a demo on emergency preparedness and hopefully will convince you to make up a "Go Bag". This is a place where you keep all your items organized so that if you have to go out on an ARES event you have everything at hand. No more fumbling around for bits and pieces and the inevitable *#@^\$! I forgot the _____ (you fill in the blank) on the drive to the event.

As you all know I tend to favour the more technical side of Amateur Radio but as time goes on we are becoming more communicators and less and less technicians. The frequencies we have, especially the VHF / UHF would certainly be prized by many other services. I am coming to believe that we must adopt a far more proactive approach to emergency preparedness. While we have not been called on to provide communications for civil authorities we still must "Be Prepared" so that if we are required we will show our abilities to communicate as well as the Pros. I strongly encourage you to come out to this meeting and get involved with Randy and ARES. The following quote from the RAC home page says it all;

"Amateur Radio exists as a frequency spectrum user because it qualifies as a service. Its continued existence depends to a great degree not on the service it has performed in the past, or on its simple potential for service, but on what service it is performing now and will continue to perform in the future."

Also remember you do not have to be a member of the LARC to be a member of ARES, so please sign up either at the next meeting or at the LARC web page.

As part of this preparedness the club has bought some Anderson Power Pole Connectors. These connectors are the standard among all ARES groups here and in the USA. They allow you to interface your radio to any other's power supply quickly and without the chance of reversing polarity. I would encourage you to buy several and continued after calendar

December 2007

Club Calendar

| <i>SUNDAY</i> | <i>MONDAY</i> | <i>TUESDAY</i> | <i>WEDNESDAY</i> | <i>THURSDAY</i> | <i>FRIDAY</i> | <i>SATURDAY</i> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Larc Meeting | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Winter Solstice 06:12 UTC |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Boxing Day | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | 1 January 2008 New Year's Day | | | | Only six months until Field Day! |

NOTES

Boston Pizza
Thursdays 2100

install them on all your rigs. This will make you far more of an asset when you have to quickly set up at another hams station or at a remote location. We may even have a night where we install them on your power cords. Let me know what you think.

Well here we are at the end of another year; I hope it was a good one for all of you. On behalf of all the members of the LARC executive we wish you a happy and safe Christmas Season and all the best in the New Year. I am asking Santa for better propagation next year so my little QRP rig can work some DX!

Merry Christmas and 73's

Bill VE3XT

Ed Sez

2007 has come and gone, and it is time to put this volume of HI-Q to bed while we celebrate the turning of the seasons, all in our own way and tradition. Don't have a tradition? Invite some friends over and make one up!

I noticed that CNN has a segment on their television broadcast called "This Week At War", a sad commentary on our times and thought to myself how, in spite of our efforts, our so-called civilization has not progressed much since the Romans tossed those upstart christians to the lions.

Amateur radio and our dedication to communicating with like-minded folks around the world, and lending a helping hand when needed is a glimmer of light in an otherwise grim world. When push comes to shove it won't be the politicians or religious leaders that fix things. It will be us geeks, because we know how stuff works. Keep up the good work.

Wishing you a Happy and Safe Holiday
Ed VE3SNW

Lead Free Soldering - LARC members learn to get the lead out... and sharpen their soldering skills. That's our Bill VE3XT at the head of the class. I wonder if this class was as well behaved as his day class?



**I'm glad Clarence was
there to
supervise...someone
could have got hurt!**